

## REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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**SUBJECT**    Koporskie Bay Naval Base Construction

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2. Officially called NKVD Construction Project Number 200, the work commenced in 1937. Captain Athanasiev of the NKVD was in charge of the work. Full strength in employment was achieved in 1938 with a total of 12 thousand forced laborers. The majority of these were Soviet nationals but there were also many Poles, Ukrainians, Jews, and Mongolians. From 1938 to the fall of 1940, the work proceeded under the highest priority. Normal working hours were dawn to dusk, but work was stopped at night because the NKVD feared that the laborers would escape.
3. Enclosure (A) is a free-hand sketch of the base construction as of the fall of 1940. Across the mouth of the bay, over a stretch of about four miles, log frames were floated into place, filled with stones and sunk. The log frames were about 250 feet long and 35 feet wide. When sunk, the structure projected about five or six feet above the water level. The distance between the frame boxes varied but was approximately 100-300 feet. There were three entrances, dredged to about 18 ft to 20 ft depth, to the bay through the line of frame boxes, each of the entrances being about 300 feet wide, and spaced at approximately equal distances between each other and the shore. In 1940 the frames were reinforced by dumping many loads of stone and broken concrete on the seaward side. I believe there was more stone and concrete on the seaward side of the frames than was inside.
4. During the whole period from 1938 to 1940, four seagoing dredges were stationed in the bay. These dredges removed mud from the bay bottom and loaded barges which dumped the mud at sea. Two gasoline engine-powered excavators like US steam shovels were used to dredge the lagoons. There were about 200 ZIS five-ton trucks employed in the project.
5. As shown in the sketch, three artificial lagoons were being constructed.  several of the engineers that each of the lagoons would be for the maintenance of one type of boat. One lagoon was for submarines, one for minesweepers, and one for subchasers. The eastern lagoon, most advanced in construction in 1940, was to be for submarines. This lagoon was dredged to a depth of 16 to 18 ft and covered an area about a half mile long

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and one-quarter mile wide. A 10-ft-thick concrete wall had been poured around the edge of the lagoon to a height about six feet above the water level and as a foundation for what was called the drydock. The drydock foundation was about 200 feet long and 100 feet wide. All poured concrete was reinforced with one inch metal rods about 20 inches apart, vertically and horizontally.

6. The other two lagoons lagged behind the submarine lagoon in construction. In the fall of 1940, both had been almost completely excavated but no concrete had been poured.
7. The forced laborers were imprisoned in two camps, one east of the bay and one west of the bay. Over 100 dogs were used to assist the guards in watching the prisoners. I never heard of a prisoner escaping. The supervisors and free employees lived in a camp about one mile south of the bay.
8. In the fall of 1940, the construction was stopped because the military situation had changed so that this base was no longer required. The prisoners were transferred to other projects and I have heard nothing more about the base.

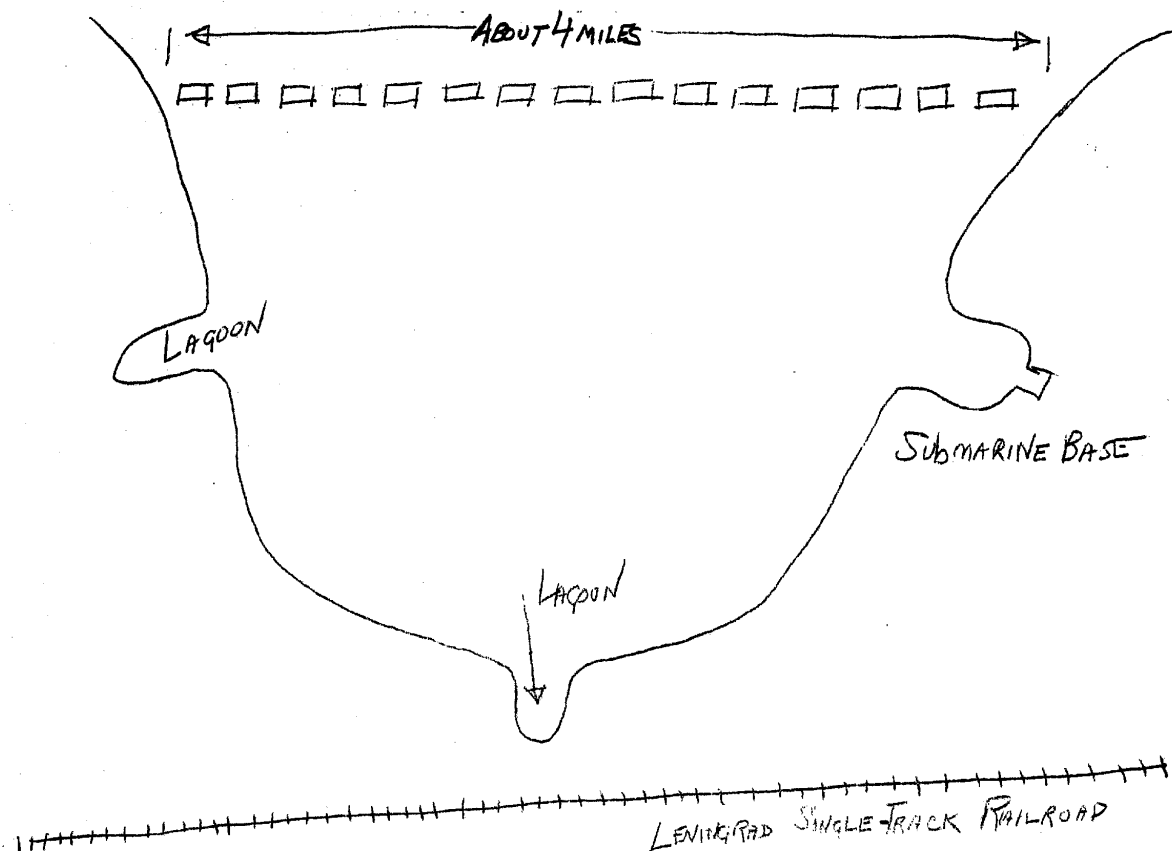
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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of Koporskie Bay Naval Base

ENCLOSURE (A)

KOPORSKIE BAY NAVAL BASE

↑ NORTH



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